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Determinant Factors of Father Involvement in Early Childhood with Disabilities: A Systematic Review

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Abstract
Fathers are the primary provider of support for the family and are crucial to the child's successful development, therefore it is crucial that they are involved. This research aims to explore factors of father involvement in young children with disabilities. Articles in this research were searched through the ScienceDirect, Scopus, Proquest and Web of Science databases. After that it was reviewed using the PRISMA-ScR procedure. This research used six journal articles which were included based on exclusion and inclusion criteria and used the metasynthesis method. The results of comprehensive findings of father involvement factors: mother factors, father factors, contextual variables, parent-child relationships and child factors. The conclusion is that the relationship between father involvement and caring for early childhood children with disabilities are two things that cannot be ignored. Future research could use the context of father involvement as a diverse construct.

Keywords: *father involvement; early childhood; disabilities.*

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Introduction
Since it is critical to address how children interact with their fathers, father engagement has received a lot of attention lately. The growth and development of children with disabilities is directly correlated with father participation. Social, economic and cultural changes have an influence on society in perceiving the role of father figures in the care and development of children. Although research on fathers has continued to increase over the past three decades, research that discusses the family has focused more on the mother figure (Parmanti & Purnamasari, 2015). Disability affects vulnerable population members with physical, mental, and intellectual disabilities (Rahma et al., 2022). IDEA (2019) outlines a variety of categories for the ailments that impact children with disabilities, including traumatic brain injuries, hearing, speech, and visual impairments, autism, orthopedic illnesses, and intellectual abnormalities.

This definition is consistent with the UN convention on the rights of individuals with disabilities, which defines individuals with disabilities as having physical, mental, or intellectual impairments that may make it challenging for them to interact with the community and distinguish them from other children generally (Nations, 2013). The number of individuals with disabilities in the global population is projected to be 25% (UNICEF, 2013). Using prevalence statistics from the GBD, Murray et al., (2020) calculated that 7.5% of children under the age of five (or 49.8 million individuals) had mild to severe impairments.

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According to UNICEF (2022) 49.8 million children under the age of five have mild to severe impairments. Children 650.000, or 0.79% of the total 84.4 million children, are deemed to be handicapped (UNICEF, 2022).

WHO (2013) lists poverty, stigma, discrimination, strained parent-child connections, institutionalization, violence, abuse, and neglect as disproportionate risk factors for early-life impairment. However, the early childhood period—which begins during pregnancy and lasts until the child is eight years old—is a crucial time for growth and development since childhood experiences can have an impact on a child's results in the future (Risdal & Singer in Tuso, 2019). Depending on the child's developmental stage, parents may have an impact on their child's mental health by altering their behavior and social circumstances (Vincent, 2023). At this point of their development, it is crucial to provide disabled children with access to environmental therapies that may help them lead fulfilling lives through nurturing (Risdal & Singer in Tuso, 2019). Therefore, it will have an effect on life in the future if children with impairments do not receive the best care during the "golden age" era.

Therefore, it will have an effect on life in the future if children with impairments do not receive the best care during the so-called "golden age" era. Sairah & Chandra (2022) a child needs to receive proper care in the first three years because this period is a critical period for the child's growth and development. Father's involvement also occurs at a long and intensive frequency in establishing relationships and utilizing all resources, both affective, physical and cognitive (Istiyati et al, 2020). Fathers are the primary provider of support for the family and are crucial to the child's successful development, hence it is crucial that they are involved. Caregiving is essential for children with disabilities (Cabrera et al., 2014, 2018). Poor father involvement in young impaired children can affect the children's socioemotional development, educational success, and mental health in the long run (Gillette & Gudmunson, 2014).

Father involvement can take many different forms, such as fathers who actively involve themselves in the lives of young children with disabilities or fathers who have little control over those children's lives (Emily & Eva, 2017).Prastiyani,(2017) research reveals a number of aspects of father engagement in parenting, including control facets, caring facets, warmth facets, involvement facets, and responsibility facets. According to research by Maya et al., (2019)fathers who are involved in raising children with disabilities take care of them, meet their needs, guide them, help them learn, and motivate them. This is consistent with research by Aryanti (2017) who found that dads' active involvement in parenting can have positive effects on children's cognitive, affective, and physical development.

According to research done in Indonesia by Septiani & Nasution (2017) father engagement affects children's capacity for emotional self-control by 56%. Since emotional awareness starts to emerge around the age of four, early emotional development in children with disabilities affects sentiments later. A Purwindarini et al., (2014) study found that 73.2% of fathers actively participate in child care. The father's engagement in three areas—spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical—is revealed by this study. The father's participation in this study has an impact on the learning outcomes for the kids.

According to a study by Sari et al., (2023) 43.60% of parents who participate in early childhood care have an influence on that care. According to some, a father's obligation to his impaired child includes taking part in family events, particularly those that are connected to his kids' extracurricular pursuits. Special needs kids require their fathers' love and support. For instance, children lose their father figures and are referred to as fatherless when fathers routinely commute outside of the city and leave the house. Fatherlessness is the absence of a father's influence and physical involvement in a child's life. Children that experience this have low self-esteem and negative emotions including rage, loneliness, jealousy, and embarrassment. This awful incident has made us more aware of how important fathers are.

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This study aims to identify the variables that affect father engagement in young children with impairments based on the aforementioned logic. We'll carefully examine these contributing factors in relation to the dynamics that fathers encounter when raising children. The study's findings will help in the development of the best interventions to promote father involvement in families, especially for fathers and children with disabilities.

Methodology

This research uses a scoping review method with the aim of mapping and providing a broad overview of the literature review covered, finding, carefully reading, analyzing, and interpreting all currently available research (Pollock & Berge, 2017). Literature searches and inclusion or exclusion criteria used several websites in this research, namely: ScienceDirect, Web of Science, Scopus and Proquest. Search phrases such as "father involvement", "disabilities", "father involvement factors", "early age" combined with "or" and "and: were used to find research relevant to this research. Based on related articles found during the search and keywords, to collect nearly equivalent information, this research does not limit the year of publication of the journal. The journal articles reviewed are articles published up to 02 October 2023. This was done so that father involvement factors for young children with disabilities could be thoroughly investigated.

This research used participants, namely early childhood, limited to 0-6 years of age, experiencing disabilities, disabilities that were acquired from birth or after birth. Apart from that, the methodology in the article used in this research is qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods. According to Pollock & Berge (2017), important knowledge can be gained from this research that can be applied in future investigations by combining this data and producing conclusions. The procedure for searching articles as a whole uses the exclusion criteria and inclusion criteria listed in the **table 1.**

Table I. Criteria for inclusion and exclusion

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Languange	English Language	Non English
Type of Article	Published and full-text articles	Not peer reviewed, not full-text, conferences abstracts, blogs and book chapter
Age	Early childhood 0-6 years old	Children over 6 years old

A search for journal articles in this study produced 393 articles using the website. The articles were read for their titles and abstracts for a thorough selection. After that, duplicates were removed, titles and abstracts that did not match the objectives of this research were removed, resulting in 15 articles. After carrying out the second evaluation, 10 articles were filtered and the focus was on reading each article as a whole. It was concluded that 6 articles would be suitable for review after carefully rereading them all and considering the consistency and clarity of each article's results. In the PRISMA-ScR flow diagram (**figure 1)**, shows the steps involved in the search procedure (Tricco et al., 2018). The 6 studies were then mapped and managed using Microsoft Excel to compile, report results and meta-synthesis methods. This is done to compare and integrate and develop new ideas or overall narratives about the underlying phenomena.

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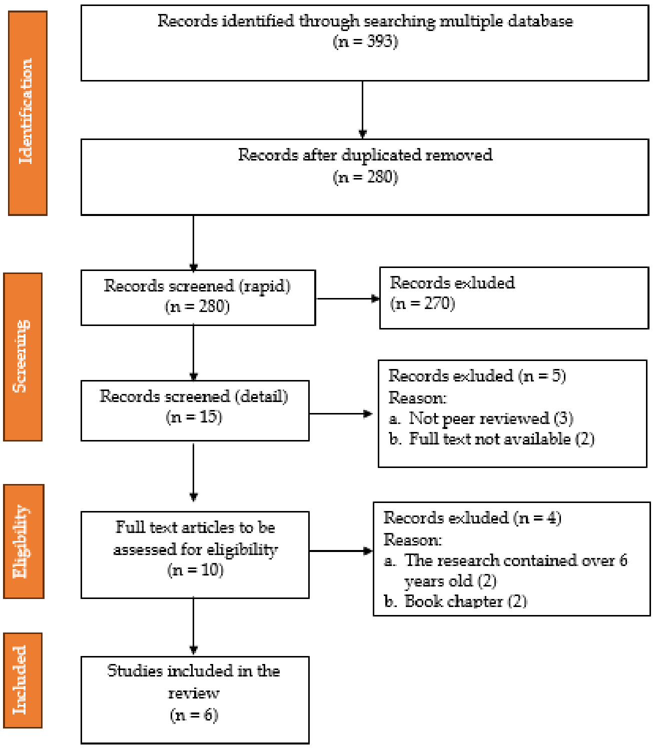

Figure I. PRISMA Flow chart of study selection process

Results and Discussion

Researchers obtained 6 publications that will be examined in this research after re-identifying them with the research aim of considering father involvement in young children with disabilities. The **table 2** (attachment) are the results of the literature review that has been carried out.

Doherty et al., (1998) categorized the factors that influence father engagement into the following six categories based on the six studies they examined: father variables, mother variables, contextual variables, parental relationship variables, and kid variables. This is how it goes:

Father factors

The involvement of a father in raising a kid with a disability can strengthen the link between father and child and promote the child's growth and development. A father's engagement in the home affects a child's character development, emotional development, social development, and cognitive development. According to (Cabrera et al., 2018). there is a link between a father's involvement in raising a child with a disability and three other factors: paternal responsibility, which refers to the father's understanding of how to meet the child's needs, paternal engagement, which refers to the father's experience interacting with the child and taking part in activities with them, and paternal accessibility, which refers to the father's presence in the needs and activities of the child. Aspects that can influence behavior include responsiveness, abrasiveness, behavioral engagement, and affective participation (Fox & Bruce, 2001). The challenges and benefits of raising children with disabilities is an interesting topic for researchers, the discussion starts from development from birth to the future.

This happens because the presence of a child with a disability affects the family's perspective. Father's involvement in parenting is associated with the development of early childhood children with disabilities, having limitations is a challenge in parenting. Potter (2016) revealed that the contribution of fathers in caring for early childhood children with

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disabilities is still underappreciated, recognized and understood in direct practice. In fact, early childhood development is closely related to future education. This is very concerning in the field of development and education of children with disabilities, considering the many benefits when fathers are involved in children's development. For example, in children's education, father involvement is very important even though he is not directly involved.

> *"Our children here are those with intellectual disabilities. They do come to school but they are not good in the manual work, and are not good in academics. They are not slow learners. If you ask her to go to the toilet she will go, but the next day she might refuse. So like such cases, they will continue coming to school till when"* (Karisa et al., 2021).

This research is also in line with research (Schiemer, 2017) and (Peprah et al., 2020) which says that father's involvement in education is very important and parents feel reassured if their child goes to a special school for children with disabilities because they receive special attention. The positive influence of father care on children, partners and families does not mean that this role is without obstacles (Giallo et al., 2014). Parenting is a role that is not easy for men as fathers. This role will be even more difficult for fathers who have children with disabilities. One indication is the many mental health problems experienced by fathers such as stress, anxiety and depression (Dunn et al., 2019).

Mother factors

The challenges in parenting are felt to be more severe for mothers who have children with disabilities. The inability to overcome the serious challenges of caring for children with disabilities puts mothers at risk of experiencing stress. Several research results regarding parenting stress show that the stressful experience of parents who have children with disabilities is caused by the large costs of health care and education, the low skills of parents in dealing with children with disabilities, the large challenges of overcoming feelings of shame and guilt and the helplessness of facing social stigma (Fernando et al., 2019; Hasanah et al., 2019). Mothers who experience parenting stress are characterized by negative psychological reactions, including shock, denial, sadness, anxiety, helplessness, feelings of shame, feelings of anger, feelings of guilt and sin towards the chil (Nirmala, 2013).

> *"Like my child, I feel like I am exhausting him. And the government says the child shouldn't remain at home. So, I don't understand. It will continue like that till when?*(Karisa et al., 2021).

Men and women are increasingly sharing childcare responsibilities, per research by by Murshid (2016). The mother's engagement in child care is essential because of the close bond that forms from birth and the fact that she has more influence over household decisions than the father (Dumbaugh et al., 2014). Mothers undertake prenatal checkups more frequently because they have more control over family decisions. These studies collectively show that mothers frequently do not require the support of fathers when parenting affords opportunities for independence. Doherty et al., (1998), found that a range of parameters can be used to explain the relationship between dads' and mothers' engagement in parenting. Mothers prioritize their physical health and the health of their children more than fathers do because they have a high level of self-efficacy in their parenting roles. The second is that mothers frequently care more about their kids' health than do fathers. In turn, this has an impact on how much time men spend raising their kids.

Contextual factors

The relationships between family members, such as those between the mother, children, siblings, and grandparents; the family's financial position; and having a family

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member with a disability are among the family contextual factors (Cabrera et al., 2018). Both the mother's characteristics—such as her age, occupation, and education—and the child's characteristics—such as gender, age, and handicap. A father's parenting style is influenced by a variety of factors, including culture, biological history, parenting style, parenting attributes, personality, familial ties, socioeconomics, social networks, and job. The family's environment changes as the family's traits do.

When viewed from a cultural context, fathers' involvement used to have power and authority over the fulfillment of family finances, while mothers had responsibility for household affairs and children. With the revolution and feminism, today's fathers must play an active role in fulfilling family life and caring for early childhood. The findings in this research reveal that this situation often causes stress in fathers' lives because of the large responsibilities in the family. Therefore, social support and emotional support originating from family, friends and especially wife support can help fathers in the process of caring for early childhood children with disabilities. As children gain a deeper understanding of themselves and others, their internal perceptions of their parents and other family members shift (Ammaniti, 2014).

Parental relationship factors

The bioecological hypothesis predicts that the father will assume the mother's functions and vice versa (Cabrera et al., 2018). When the environment calls for adaptation, such as when both parents are employed or when the father is the main caregiver, this happens. Father involvement in parenting lowers depression among mothers who find it difficult to care for their newborns, according to studies (Lewin et al., 2015). Problems regarding father involvement in parenting can be eliminated by doing several things, namely scheduling play, managing work and family obligations, balancing their future and the future of their children. Considering the dual role that fathers have to play, namely working and caring for young children with disabilities, perhaps this is a challenge and they have difficulty carrying it out.

This is the basis that in caring for children with disabilities who have many challenges there must be a contribution from the father and mother relationship. The interaction of fathers and mothers with children with disabilities is a social-emotional context that must be addressed through intervention. If the father's involvement in child care is not fulfilled, it can have a negative impact on the child's development process in both physical and psychological aspects, such as depression, decreased academic grades, and problems with the child's social competence. The psychological conditions that exist in the relationship between father and mother also contribute to the psychological well-being of children with disabilities (Asfari, 2022).

On the other hand, if the father's involvement in child care can be fulfilled and implemented well, it will have a positive impact on both the child and the father himself. The forms of the role of father and mother relationships in caring for children with disabilities are carrying out activities together, direct care roles such as feeding and bathing children, being role models and teaching moral values to children, taking children to therapy or going to school, meeting financial needs, find information about the furniture and care needed and monitor the child's development and condition(Asfari, 2022). According to Trahan (2018) research, the presence of internal components, particularly self-efficacy, has a bigger impact than the presence of external components, like the relationship between the father and mother or parenting components. Researchers (McLeod & Tirmazi, 2017) discovered that the mother-father bond affected children more than the strength of the bond.

Children factors

This study found a connection between father involvement in parenting and features of children with disabilities, despite the fact that it is rarely highlighted. Fathers' involvement

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in raising children with disabilities is significantly influenced by a child's characteristics, such as age, gender, or temperament (Emily & Eva, 2017). Numerous research also highlight a conflict between father involvement and child characteristics, particularly child age. Negative attitudes towards children with disabilities are often associated with fathers' parenting patterns (Karisa et al., 2021). One of the consequences of this is neglect of children with disabilities. This also has something to do with children with disabilities living in rural or urban areas. Wrong perception about the causes of your disability. The stigma attached to those who live in rural areas is often the cause of fathers avoiding their duties to care for their children with disabilities. This stigma is also associated with existing cultural contexts such as beliefs and environmental factors.

Conclusion

Researchers got to the conclusion that there is a link between father involvement and parenting of children with impairments after completing a careful analysis. A detailed analysis revealed that the mother variables, environmental factors, parental relationship factors, and child factors are all related to father engagement. Other elements that influence how children are raised include the child's gender, age, location of employment, and educational background. This research can provide a reference for further research to examine fathers' involvement in caring for children with disabilities. The limitations in this systematic review are the selection of articles with unlimited years so they cannot be generalized to the latest socio-cultural context, there are no external variables that can be used in this research, the majority of articles used in this research are research from western countries, the limited use of words The key is the main reason that many studies are ignored by researchers. However, future research can use the context of father involvement as a diverse construct

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Lampiran

Table 2. Summary of included studies

No	Title/Researcher	Purpose	Location	Methodology	Result
1	"It's the most important thing – I mean, the schooling": Father involvement in the education of children with autism (C. Potter, 2016)	To purpose fathers involvement in the education of children with disabilities	Inggris	Mixed methods study: Online cross-sectional survey and semi structured interview	The respondents indicated that father involvement is very important directly or indirectly to children's education
2	Father involvement and maternal depressive sysmptoms in families of children with disabilities or delays (Laxman et al., 2015)	To examine that father's involvement affects the mother's level of depression	New York	Data National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Birth Cohort (ECLS-B)	Literacy of fathers' involvement in parenting is associated with lower levels of depression in mothers of children with autism
3	It's a School but it's not a School: understanding father involvement in the Schooling of children with intellectual disabilities in Kenya (Karisa et al., 2021)	To attempt to understand fathers' perceptions of their children's education and the impact of fathers' involvement with children with intellectual disabilities	Kenya	Qualitative methods with case study design	The result is that fathers want children with disabilities to have education, knowledge, skills that make them independent
4	Father involvement in the care, play, and education of children with autism (Potter, 2017)	To investigate the level of father involvement in children with disabilities who are diagnosed with autism	Inggris	Quantitative method	According to the results, the father felt that autistic children were his responsibility
5	Father's experience of involvement in the daily care of their child with a developmental disability in a Chinese context (Huang et al., 2013)	To explore the experiences of fathers' involvement in caring for children with disabilities in the Chinese cultural context	Taiwanese	Qualitative method interviewed twice with semi-structured and in- depth interviews	The results of this study reveal that father involvement has three meanings, namely, contributing to maintaining life expectancy, quality of medical care and the importance of family function
6	Fathers' involvement in rearing children with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities (Sato & Araki, 2022)	To study the relationship between fathers' involvement in training for parents with autism and factors related to children's involvement before and after attending the training	American	Quantitative method	Based on the research results, it did not produce a significant relationship between before and after attending the training for fathers' involvement in caring for children with disabilities because the sample size was too small.